

# CITY of BEAVERTON

## PRESS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## CITY OF BEAVERTON SOWS 'GIVING GARDENS' TO FEED THE HUNGRY

### - Newly Re-Opened Kennedy Community Gardens Site of Volunteer Effort -

**Beaverton, Oregon (June 5, 2009)** – This summer, local families in need will receive fresh produce from Beaverton's new **Giving Gardens** project. Community volunteers and City of Beaverton staff are pitching in to tend 10 plots in the newly re-opened Kennedy Community Garden. The harvested produce will be donated to the Oregon Food Bank, St. Matthew's Food Pantry, Sunshine Pantry and the Tualatin Valley Gleaners. The Giving Gardens crop will include beans, carrots, corn, cucumbers, eggplant, peppers, radishes, squash and tomatoes. Volunteer gardeners are still needed!

**Mayor Denny Doyle** and the **Beaverton City Council** will host a "watering-in" event for the last vegetables planted in the garden on **Monday, June 8, at 10 a.m.** at the Kennedy Gardens (SW Kennedy St. at SW 103<sup>rd</sup> St.). The public is invited to attend.

"The fresh vegetables from the City of Beaverton's Giving Gardens will help feed local families and individuals that are struggling to make ends meet," said Mayor Doyle. "My administration is committed to making sure that our most vulnerable neighbors get the assistance they need."

"The Mayor approached me about a month ago and asked if SEIU would want to participate," said **Kathy Gaona**, the SEIU Secretary who is both a resident of Beaverton and works in the City's Finance Department. "I thought it was another great way for employees to participate in our community."

The City of Beaverton would like to thank the following individuals and organizations for their volunteer support or donations so far: Catalyst Project, Catatilla Design, Growing Gardens, Jeff Kautenberg, Farmers Insurance Agency, Oregon Food Bank's Learning Gardens, St. Matthew's Church, Tualatin Valley Gleaners, and Tualatin Hills Park and Recreation District. A special note of thanks to Ginger Steele, owner of New Leaf Greenhouse, who donated nearly all of the organic vegetable plant starts.

The Kennedy Community Garden, which is located on the grounds of St. Matthew's Church, originally closed on December 31, 2008, to make way for an athletic field. When the leadership of St. Matthew's decided to delay the project due to the economy, Mayor Doyle asked to re-open the 85-plot community garden. Although filling up quickly, there are still several garden plots available. Register online at [www.beavertonoregon.gov/gardens](http://www.beavertonoregon.gov/gardens) or call (503) 526-2665.

The City of Beaverton also operates the Beaverton Community Center and Welch-Centennial Community Gardens. Many of the individual gardeners in each of the community gardens are also choosing to donate produce to local food pantries.

To volunteer or for more information about Beaverton's Giving Gardens, please call (503) 526-2380 or visit [www.BeavertonOregon.gov/garden](http://www.BeavertonOregon.gov/garden).

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